

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 are pending in this case. Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, and 11 are amended and new Claims 12-17 are added by the present amendment. As amended Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, and 11 are amended and new Claims 12-17 are supported by the original claims, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs; and Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Ando et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,379,990, hereinafter “Ando”).

Claims 6 and 11 are amended to correct informalities.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, the specification and Claims 3 and 7 are amended to recite that the shaft units are mounted to a *container containing a recording medium*, not the recording medium itself. Accordingly, Claims 1-11 are in compliance with all requirements under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Ando, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent Claim 1 recites in part, “at least a portion of the outer lateral surface of said elastic member is received by a rectangular aperture of said housing member.”

The outstanding Office Action cited damper body 34 of Ando as “an elastic member.” However, it is respectfully submitted that damper body 34 is received by *cylindrical* fixed mount 35. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the apparatus illustrated in Ando does not teach that “a portion of the outer lateral surface of said elastic member is received by a *rectangular aperture of said housing member*” as recited in Claim 1. Since Ando does not

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teach each and every element of Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 (and Claims 2-6 dependent therefrom) is not anticipated by Ando and is patentable thereover.

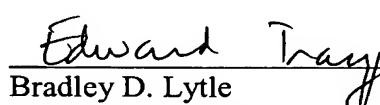
Independent Claim 7 recites similar elements to Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that Claim 7 (and Claims 8-11 dependent therefrom) is patentable over Ando for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1.

New Claims 12-17 are supported at least by original Claims 1-6. As Ando does not teach or suggest that "at least a portion of the outer lateral surface of said elastic means for buffering is received by a rectangular aperture of said housing member" as recited in Claim 12, Claim 12 (and Claims 13-17 dependent therefrom) are believed to be patentable over Ando.

Accordingly, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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